

MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR DIRECT RECRUITMENT FOR
THE POST OF ASSISTANT - MAY, 2023

PAPER - I
(GENERAL ENGLISH)

Time : 3 hours
Full Marks : 100

The figure in the margin indicates full mark for the questions.

1. Write an essay on any 1 (one) of the following topic in not more than 350 words. (30)
 - a) The 8th Mizoram Legislative Assembly Budget Session 2023-2024
 - b) The G20 Business Conference held in India
 - c) Tourism, what can the government do to promote tourism in Mizoram, to generate income

2. **Directions :** Read the passage carefully and answer the question that follows :

On the basis of this belief, I have had always a certain degree of optimism, although as I have grown older, the optimism has grown more sober and the happy issue more distinct. But I remain completely incapable of agreeing with those who accept fatalistically the view that man is born to trouble. The causes of unhappiness in the past and in the present are not difficult to ascertain. There has been poverty, pestilence, and famine which were due to man's inadequate mastery of nature. There have been wars, oppressions and tortures which have been due to men's hostility to their fellow-men. And there have been morbid miseries fastened by gloomy creeds, which have led men into profound inner discords that made all outward prosperity of no avail. All these are unnecessary. In regard to all of them, means are known by which they can be overcome. In the modern world, if communities are unhappy, it is because they choose to be so. Or, to speak more precisely, because they have ignorance's, habits, beliefs and passions, which are dearer to them than happiness or even life. I find many men in our dangerous age who seem to be in love with misery and death, and who grow angry when hopes are suggested to them. They think that hope is irrational and that, in sitting with these men, to preserve hope in our world calls upon intelligence and our energy. In those who despair it is very frequently the energy that is lacking.

The last half of my life has been lived in one of those painful epochs of human history during which the world is getting worse which had seemed to be definitive, have turned out to be only temporary. When I was young, Victorian optimism was taken for granted. It was thought that freedom and prosperity would spread gradually throughout the world by an orderly process, and it was hope that cruelty, tyranny and injustice would continually diminish. Hardly anyone was haunted by the fear of great wars. Hardly anyone thought of the nineteenth century as a brief interlude between past and future barbarism. For those who grew up in this atmosphere, adjustment to the world of the present has been difficult not only emotionally but intellectually. Ideas that had been thought adequate have proved inadequate. In some directions valuable freedoms have proved very hard to preserve. In other directions, specially as regards relations

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between nations, freedoms formerly valued have proved potent sources of disaster. New thoughts, new hopes, new freedoms, and new restrictions upon freedom are needful if the world is to emerge from the present perilous state.

Questions :

1. What does the author mean when he says that 'the optimism has grown more sober and the happy issue more distant'? (2x5=10)
2. What does the author think about the belief that man is born in trouble? Explain the belief that man is born to trouble.
3. Why does the author say that, if communities are unhappy, it is because they choose to be so?
4. What does the author mean by "Victorian optimism"?
5. What does the author mean when he says that, in relations between nations, freedoms formerly valued proved potent sources of disaster?

3. **Directions :** Write a precis of the following passage in about one third of its original length. 21
3/3

(10)

The belief that fashion alone should dominate opinion has great advantages. It makes thought unnecessary and puts the highest intelligence within the reach of everyone. It is not difficult to learn the correct use such words as 'complex', 'sadism', 'Oedipus', 'bourgeois', 'deviation', 'left'; and nothing more is needed to make a brilliant writer or talker. Some, at least, of such words represented much thought on the part of their inventors; like paper money they were originally convertible into gold. But, they have become for most people inconvertible, and in depreciating have increased nominal wealth in ideas. And, so we are enabled to despise the paltry intellectual fortunes of former times.

The modern-minded man, although he believes profoundly in the wisdom of his period, must be presumed to be very modest about his personal powers. His highest hope is to think first what is about to be thought, to say what is about to be said, and to feel what is about to be felt; he has no wish to think better thoughts than his neighbours, to say things showing more insight, or to have emotions, which are not those of the fashionable group, but only to be slightly ahead of others in point of time. Quite deliberately, he suppresses, what is individual in himself for the sake of the admiration of the herd. A mentally solitary life, such as that of Copernicus, or Spinoza or Milton after the Restoration, seems pointless according to modern standards.

Copernicus should have delayed his advocacy of the Copernican system until it could be made fashionable; Spinoza should have been either a good Jew or a good Christian; Milton should have moved with the times, like Cromwell's widow who asked Charles II for a pension on the ground that she did not agree with her husband's politics. Why should an individual set himself up an independent judge? Is it not clear that wisdom resides in the blood of the Nordic race or, alternatively, in the proletariat? And, in any case, what is the use of an eccentric option, which never can hope to conquer the great agencies of publicity?

The money reward and widespread thought ephemeral fame, which whose agencies have made possible places temptations in the way of able men, which are difficult to resist. To be pointed out, admired, mentioned constantly in the press and offered easy ways of earning much money is highly agreeable; and when all this is open to a man, he finds it difficult to go on doing the work that he himself thinks best and is inclined to subordinate his judgement to the general opinion.

request, winter, tomorrow

4. **Directions :** Change the following sentences into indirect speech. (5)

- (a) The spectators said, "Bravo! Well done, players".
- (b) I said, "How many discoveries go unheeded"?
- (c) My father once said to me, "If I can't trust my people then I don't want to be doing this".
- (d) "How clever of you to have solved the puzzle so quickly", said the mother.
- (e) He wrote in his report, "The rainfall has been scanty till now".

5. **Directions :** Change the following sentences into direct speech. (5)

- (a) The tailor asked him if he would have the pants ready by the next evening.
- (b) The Captain commanded his men to stand at ease.
- (c) The father warned his son that he should beware of him.
- (d) He told me that he expected to attend the function.
- (e) John asked how long it would take to travel from Germany to America.

6. **Directions :** Use the following homonyms in sentences so as to bring out the difference in meaning clearly without changing the form. (10)

- (a) (i) Amicable (b) (i) Complaisant (c) (i) Elude
- (ii) Amiable (ii) Complacent (ii) Allude
- (d) (i) Ordinance (e) (i) Voracity
- (ii) Ordnance (ii) Veracity

7. **Directions :** Use these idioms/phrases in sentences of your own to bring out their meaning clearly. Do not change the form of the words. (5)

- (a) Eke out (b) Draw the long bow
- (c) Bolt from the blue (d) Fabian policy (e) Bite the dust

8. **Directions :** Spot the errors, if any in the following sentences. (1x5=5)

- (a) He closely resembles with his father in facial features.
- (b) While taking examinations, always write with dark ink.
- (c) She is very popular among her friends and relatives.
- (d) My father has assured me to present me a new scooter on my next birthday.
- (e) My house comprises of five rooms and is spacious enough for two families.

9. **Directions :** The use of 'To be' as an ordinary verb. (1x5=5)

- (a) I wonder where Rama ___ lately.
- (b) Of late, there ___ great improvements in the city.
- (c) Everybody presumes that she may ___ present at the time of her brother's marriage next month.
- (d) I am convinced now that his political views ___ worth listening to.
- (e) The dinner ___ ready before we arrived.

is

To Rama I wonder where to be

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10. **Directions** : Fill in the blanks with the most suitable form of Infinitive/Gerund. (1x5=5)

- (a) The boys in the hostel are averse ___ part in the strikes. (take)
- (b) It gives me immense pleasure ___ you of her engagement. (inform)
- (c) The police officer denied ___ callous to the undertrial. (be)
- (d) He is rich today, but he seems ___ in the past. (be poor) *is, are*
- (e) She has postponed ___ abroad next year. (go) *go went gone*

11. **Directions** : Give the correct Tense form of the verbs given bracket. (1x5=5)

- (a) I ___ this film. (already see)
- (b) I ___ it in Mumbai last month. (see)
- (c) Now he ___ a book about it. (write)
- (d) Two convicts ___ from prison last night. (escape)
- (e) I don't know him because I ___ him. (never meet) *write was meet*

12. **Directions** : Give a suitable determiner to the following. (1x5=5)

- (a) I don't need ___ money.
- (b) I had to face ___ trouble.
- (c) ___ people came to see the fair.
- (d) Were there ___ boys in the playground?
- (e) This work is lighter, so I can do with ___ manpower.

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